

PRESIDENT MCGINLEY PRESIDING

PRESIDENT: Rise for the prayer. This morning one of our colleagues has taken the holy veil and will preside for us, Sister Marjorie Higgins.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you, Father McGinley. The prayer this morning, I am not going to actually recite a prayer. I read once where he who sings prays twice. Don't worry, I'm not going to sing either, but I am going to play a recording for you of a hymn that we always considered a Protestant hymn and today Catholics also sing it in their church. I know you've all heard "Amazing Grace" many times, but I don't think you have ever heard it played this way and it always reminds me when I hear it of the very eerie and almost haunting way in which God does move His grace into a soul. It isn't overnight like a bolt of lightening. Many of us think we become born again Christians or converted because something serious happened in our life when actually I believe that grace can very often move slowly and a person will slowly transpose themselves. So the prayer this morning is really a hymn and I wish those in their offices had better speakers because I think this is truly a unique rendition of "Amazing Grace".

(Hymn played.)

Thank you, Senators, for the privilege of offering this this morning.

PRESIDENT: Thank you, Senator Higgins, nice way to start the day. Members, please record your presence (gavel) for roll call.

CLERK: There is a quorum present, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: A quorum is present and the Legislature is in session. (Gavel.) Are there corrections to the Journal?

CLERK: Mr. President, no corrections this morning.

PRESIDENT: Reports and announcements for the record.

CLERK: Your Committee on Enrollment and Review reports 196, 197 and 496 all correctly engrossed, Mr. President. (See page 2332 of the Legislative Journal.)